

August 25, 2024

Hello Kinawa Families,

Our students had a wonderful first week of school. Students learned about basic procedures and routines throughout the building and in the classroom. They have been doing a fantastic job at learning their locker combinations and opening their lockers, and are navigating the building with confidence as they begin rotating through their entire schedules.

Every student should have received a school issued device on Friday. If they were absent on Friday, they will receive one this week. Please understand that students are responsible for their devices and that these will be the devices they will keep throughout the next few years of school. We ask that you please remind them to charge the devices each night and to handle them responsibly.

This week will be a short week as there is No School on Friday August 30th and Monday September 2 as we observe Labor Day.

UPCOMING DATES

August 30 and September 2: No School - Labor Day Holiday

September 6: Picture Day

September 11: NWEA Testing for all students

September 16: Keep Kinawa Moving Event

September 20: OHS Homecoming

September 23: No School for students - Professional Development Day for Staff

PHOEBE INFORMATION

Kinawa is fortunate to have Phoebe as our school's therapy dog. Phoebe is a member of Okemos's Woof Pack and brings joy and cuddles to many. She will be at the school each day welcoming our students and joining them in their classrooms. If your child has an allergy or a fear of dogs please complete this [form](#) to help us ensure Phoebe is not in your child's class.



UPCOMING KINAWA FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

Each year Kinawa starts the year with a field trip for both 5th and 6th grade students. Both trips happen very quickly after the start of the school year, therefore, we want to make sure to share information with families early. **Please notice in the information the quick turnaround for permission and payment of August 29th!**

5th grade traditional and 5th and 6th grade Montessori field trip Howell Nature Center field trip information

[Howell Nature Center Field Trip Information](#)

All 6th grade Kinawa students canoeing field trip to the Huron River information

[Canoe Field Trip information](#)

CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENT

The [Capital Area District Library](#) is partnering with school districts in its service area to provide students with access to their educational resources. Through this initiative, Kinawa students can get a public library card no matter where they live. It gives them access to books, audiobooks, magazines and more in both digital and physical formats.

Having a Student Success account requires release of directory information to CADL. Any parent/guardian who does NOT want their student to have an account can opt out by contacting their building librarian by **September 13, 2024**.

CARLINE PROCEDURE

Student Drop Off

If you will be dropping your child off in the morning or picking them up, please make sure you use the large parking lot on the east side of Kinawa. **The loop in front of the school as well as the bus lane to the West of the school cannot be used for student drop off or pick up.**

Please only drop your student off along the sidewalk near the school. If you choose to park in the parking lot, we ask that you walk your child to the crosswalk with the orange barricades.

We have over 750 students at Kinawa, therefore, we ask that you are patient as everyone learns the carline routine. Please know it is imperative everyone is patient and attentive to ensure every child is arriving and departing school safely each day.

The first row of parking spots, located closest to the building, are designated for Staff and handicapped parking only. Please do not park in these spots.

Student Drop off and Pick up can be stressful if everyone is not following the procedures. We ask that you take a moment to watch our Carline video to help familiarize yourself with our carline procedure.

Key Points to Remember:

- Drop off and pick up can only be done in the large lot to the east of the building. Please do not drop off or pick up your child in front of the building or in the bus lane.
- Please weave through the parking lot to help keep traffic off from Kinawa drive
- Please pull up as far as possible when loading your child, and load/unload as quickly as possible
- If you plan to park and walk through the parking lot to get your child you must wait in the orange barrel sectioned off area. Students will not be allowed to walk through the parking lot without an adult.
- Students can only cross at the main crosswalk by the orange barrels. **We ask that parents do ask their child to cross at different locations.**
- Please be patient and kind. Kinawa's staff are volunteering their time to help ensure every child gets home safely.

Morning Drop Off

- During morning drop off, all students need to be dropped off **curbside only in the parking lot on the east side of the building** to help keep them safe. Please do not drop your child off in the parking lot and ask them to walk across the lot. There will be many cars in the lot and we do not want them to get hit by a car.
- Please pull up as much as possible when dropping off your child to allow for other cars behind you to access the sidewalk.

Afternoon Pick Up

- Students will exit the building through door #14 Door closest to the tennis courts
- Carline will be "airport loading" along the entire sidewalk area
- Any students choosing to not be picked up curbside will need to wait in the orange barricaded areas for parents to walk them across the parking lot.
- Our goal is to make the process quick for everyone while ensuring our students are safe.

KINAWA T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

We had many families who asked if the Kinawa T-shirts would still be available for purchase after Kick Start. We still have some sizes available (youth M, youth L, and youth XL.) If you or your child are interested in purchasing a T-Shirt, please have your child come to the main office during the first two weeks of school to purchase one. They will be available until we sell out of them. Cost is **\$15/T-shirt. Cash or checks** made out to Kinawa will be accepted.



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KINAWA PARENT GROUP INFORMATION

KINAWA YEARBOOK ORDER

If you are interested in ordering your child a Kinawa Yearbook, Josten's has provided an opportunity to pre-order them now. Please understand yearbooks will not be ready prior to the spring.

Yearbook sales only link: <https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A03854700>

A NOTE FROM THE ART ROOM

Hello,

My name is Mrs. Cronin and I am the 5th and 6th grade Art teacher. I am so excited to get to know your student this year! If you are interested in volunteering throughout the year, please email me at: jennifer.cronin@okemosk12.net to let me know. Occasionally, I will need help prepping supplies, an extra set of hands in the classroom, and preparing for the art show at the end of the school year.

I am taking donations of newspapers, small sturdy plastic bottles and plastic eggs at this time for an upcoming paper mache project. If you have any to contribute, students can bring them to school and drop them off in the art room (403). I will be updating an [Amazon Wishlist](#) throughout the year, if you would like to additionally help our budding artists in that way.

Finally, if your student is interested in joining the Art club, information will be sent out through the Kinawa newsletter in mid to late September, once we are in the swing of things. So keep your eyes open for that!

OKEMOS BASEBALL CLUB TRYOUT INFORMATION

Time to register for Okemos Baseball Club tryouts!

Okemos Baseball Club provides a fun baseball opportunity for those who are ready for a level of competition and skill development beyond recreational league baseball, but not ready to commit to a year-round travel baseball schedule.

Parents and guardians interested in being a part of the Okemos Baseball Club can sign up their eligible players through the online form below. We encourage you to share this information with your social network to help promote the opportunity to as many players as possible.

Register for tryouts by clicking [here to complete the Okemos Baseball Club 2024-25 Registration, Waiver and Release Form](#).

Tryout dates and times are as follows*:

- U13 & U14 Thursday, September 12 6-8 pm Hartrick Park

- U8, U9 & U10 Monday, September 16 6-8 pm Hartrick Park
- U11 & U12 Tuesday, September 17 6-8 pm Hartrick Park
- All Ages Make-Up Saturday, September 21 TBD Hartrick Park

* All tryouts will be held outdoors weather-permitting. Players should arrive at least 15 minutes early and be dressed and equipped to demonstrate their batting, throwing, and fielding abilities.

Baseball age cutoff for all age divisions is April 30. A baseball player's age as of 4/30/2025 will dictate the youngest age group they are eligible to play in during the 2025 season.

If your player has made a 2025 team roster, you will be notified by the coach by November 1. Indoor practices (limited to 1-2 hours per week) will begin January 2025 with the games and more outdoor practices occurring April through June or early July with details provided to you by your player's coach(es).

OBC Dues. Please be aware there is a per player fee for Okemos Baseball Club and if you have a new player who makes a team, the player will also need a new uniform. While we do our best to keep fees as low as possible, these player dues and uniform costs are determined after teams have been formed. For your consideration, the estimated per player fee for the 2025 OBC season may be approximately \$500.

For players newer to the game who may want to explore recreational-level play, please contact Okemos Community Education or Meridian Township to learn more about their spring baseball programs.

[OBC tryout information](#)

OKEMOS SOFTBALL CLUB TRYOUT INFORMATION

[Okemos Softball Club Tryout Information](#)
[Softball Flyer](#)

WAIT UNTIL 8TH PROGRAM

Many Kinawa families are joining the Wait Until 8th program to delay smartphone access for kids. Wait Until 8th is a website where you can pledge to delay giving your child a smartphone and lets families rally together to help reduce peer pressure on kids and parents to get one. The pledge is just about smartphones; you can still participate in Wait Until 8th while letting your child have a basic phone or a smartwatch, so busy families can still easily coordinate and stay in touch while participating. To learn more about the pledge and how it works, reasons to consider participating, and about smartphone alternatives like basic phone options, visit waituntil8th.org. To join the pledge, go to waituntil8th.org, and select Kinawa School after choosing Michigan and Okemos (and for next school select Chippewa Middle School).

[Wait Until 8th Flyer](#)
[Wait Until 8th Parent Resource](#)

OKEMOS FALL 2024 ARCHERY CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

Okemos Archery's Introduction to Archery Club Registration Link is Now Open (August 11-25)! Slots are limited and Filling Up Fast!

Next month we will offer an Introduction to Archery Class for Okemos grade 5-12 students. This class is for students who have not participated in archery club before. Click the link below to pre-register your child for this class. This seven session introductory class will be held **September 24- October 3, 2024:**

- Grade 9-12= **5-6:00 PM**
- Grade 7 & 8= **6-7:00 PM**
- Grade 5 & 6= **7-8:00 PM**

Grade level shifts may occur due to enrollment numbers

All sessions will be in the Kinawa Main Gym and will give kids the experience to decide if they would like to try out in November for the Okemos Archery Team. All equipment is provided. Registration closes Sunday, August 25, but we expect that this class could fill up quickly. Only 120 spots available.

Dates: 9/24, 9/25, 9/26, 9/30, 10/1, 10/2, 10/3

Cost: \$80 After Registration closes we will follow up with a confirmation email that will provide REVTRAK payment information for those that make it into each session.

What's Included: Registration includes Okemos Archery t-shirt *and* registration for the annual Okemos Archery Wolves Warmup 10 meter tournament at Kinawa School on Saturday, October 26!

[Registration Link for Okemos Intro to Archery Class](#)

Check us out @ <https://linktr.ee/okemosarchery>.



SECURED VESTIBULES

[Secured Vestibules](#)

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Kinawa participates in the Weekend Survival Kits program which provides GROCERIES OVER THE WEEKEND, so families can focus more on other necessities.

Weekend Survival Kits provides supplemental kits of food to children at school every other Friday so they can have nutritious food during the weekend.

If you are a family that struggles with food insecurity, you are eligible to receive food kits at NO COST. Please contact counselor **Emily Edger**, emily.edger@okemosk12.net or (517) 706-4707 to register. If you have multiple children, you are eligible to receive multiple kits. All names will remain confidential.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Kinawa is currently looking for any individual who would be interested in being a lunchroom supervisor at Kinawa. These positions would be a great opportunity to interact with our students and staff. The position would be as many days as you would like a week between the hours of 11am - 1:30pm each day. Please contact steven.stierley@okemosk12.net if you are interested in learning more about this position.

Finally, throughout the school year I will also be posting information on the Kinawa Twitter page @KinawaPrincipal for anyone who would be interested in following.

I look forward to a wonderful school year.

Please email me at steven.stierley@okemosk12.net or call me at 517-706-4700 with questions or concerns.

Steve Stierley